

Consumption of fertilizers and Pesticides

3575. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the per hectare consumption of NPK fertilizers and pesticides in irrigated and rainfed areas of the country as on March 31, 1991;

(b) whether the recent hike in prices of fertilizers have affected the consumption of fertilizers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps proposed by the government to increase the consumption fertilizers and organic manures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The per hectare consumption of fertilizers and pesticides in the country during 1990-91 is estimated to be 72.75 kgs and 400 gms, respectively. The consumption data for irrigated and rainfed areas are not collected separately.

(b) and (c). The fertiliser consumption during 1991-92 is likely to be about 13.5 million tonnes of nutrients against the estimated consumption of 12.576 million tonnes during 1990-91 which shows a significant increase.

(d) The Following steps have been taken to increase the consumption of fertilisers and organic manures in the country;

(i) 1991-92 at a cost of Rs. 405 crores to make fertilisers available to small and marginal farmers at old prices.

(ii) The State governments have been

advised to exempt fertiliser dealers having stocks upto ten metric tons of fertiliser from registration.

(iii) About 463 soil testing laboratories are functioning in the country to advise to farmers on fertiliser use.

(iv) State governments are being stressed upon from time to time to adopt balanced fertilisation including use of micronutrients.

(v) State are also advised to produce organic manures to the fullest extent and use it in an integrated manner alongwith chemical fertilisers.

Meeting of the World Petroleum Congress

3576. SHRIMATI BASAVA-RAJESWARI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he visited a number of countries including London to attend a highly technical meeting of the World Petroleum Congress; and

(b) if so, the countries visited by him and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) and (b). Yes, he attended the World Petroleum Congress which was attended by Ministers from other countries also and where matters relating to petroleum including technical matters were discussed. The countries visited were Argentina for the World Petroleum Congress and Vietnam for discussions with the Vietnamese Government regarding